



# LEWISHAM DISTRICT NEWS

The Kent County Association of Change Ringers **July 2008**

See the Website at: [www.lewishamdistrict.org.uk](http://www.lewishamdistrict.org.uk) for the latest news and information

## Beckenham Win Farningham Trophy

**David Hilling**

The completion of the restoration at Farningham was marked on Sunday 29 June with the inaugural contest for the Farningham Trophy. The trophy itself is a bowl, complete with bolt shafts, turned from the discarded elm headstock of the tenor.

Following the Patronal Festival service at St Peter and St Paul Farningham the ringers were thanked by the PCC at a lunchtime reception for work on the restoration, locally referred to as 'The 100 Years Service'. In 1904 the bells were augmented to six and re-hung. The bells now have new fittings and have been re-tuned. A slide show of the 100 Years Service activities was rolling throughout the afternoon's competition and other items were on display including a full album of restoration photographs and articles.

The Rector welcomed the bands and

judge, Michael Uphill. Seven bands had entered for the Trophy competition:

Beckenham  
Beckenham and Bromley  
Chelsfield  
Crayford and Dartford  
Erith  
Eynsford and Farningham  
Horton Kirby and Shoreham

Bands with non-pealers were allowed to ring call changes. The

weather was good so drinking tea in the churchyard or something stronger in the garden of the nearby Pied Bull was the order of the afternoon.



The victorious Beckenham band

Brian Butcher who leads the KCACR 'Heavy Gang', aka the KCACR bell restoration team, was present and addressed us all prior to announcement

of the results. Brian's Heavy Gang had removed the Farningham bells from the tower in early January. He summarised his team's activities and his concerns about other formal bodies impacting bells

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## Forthcoming District Events:

### **Quarterly District Meeting:**

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July, Erith, St John the Baptist. 3.30pm bells, 4.30pm service then tea, meeting and evening ringing. Names for tea to: [names4tea@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:names4tea@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

**Recruitment:** Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July. Dartford Festival, Central Park. See page

**District Training Day:** Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> July. Various district towers. Contact David Brown on [training@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:training@lewishamdistrict.org.uk) for details.

**District Practice:** Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August, Shoreham, SS Peter & Paul. 7-9pm

**Ringing Roadshow:** Friday 5<sup>th</sup>/ Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September. Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire. For more details see the Ringing Roadshow website [www.ringingroadshow2008.org.uk](http://www.ringingroadshow2008.org.uk)

**District Practice:** Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September, Erith, Christ Church, 10am-12pm. Note: Morning practice

**County 6 bell Striking Contest:** Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September, Aldington (Ashford District).

**District Practice:** Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September, Southwark, Cathedral Church of St Saviour, 6:30-8:30pm. Note: Tuesday practice

**Please read the Cathedral rules for visiting bands especially if you will be bringing Juniors.**

**Annual District Meeting:** Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October, Biggin Hill, St Mark. 3.30pm bells, 4.30pm service then tea, meeting and possibly evening ringing. Names for tea to: [names4tea@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:names4tea@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

# The Master's Bit

A couple of things to mention this time. Firstly, we have been asked to ring at all the towers in Bromley Borough on 17th September as part of a South Londonwide Festival. Details are elsewhere in the newsletter so please support this if you can as it should provide some good positive publicity for bellringing.

Secondly, the district's annual trip up to Southwark Cathedral is taking place on Tuesday 29th July. It is open to everyone and is a chance to probably try something a bit different from your usual tower. So please come along even if it is just to try some rounds on 12 for the first time.

And finally, please try and make it along to the upcoming district practices. They are put on for the benefit of every member of the district to help you progress in whatever level of ringing you are at so please come along and make use of them.



restoration work.

Michael in his summing up entertained us with references to Neolithic man in the form of a certain Kent ringer being on the loose in Farningham. And so things continued in a relaxed manner. The competition was billed as an event with no losers. So when it came to the results just the first three places were announced. The triumphant team was Beckenham, followed by the Beckenham and Bromley band with Eynsford and Farningham third.

The general view was that Farningham now has a ring of bells that number amongst the best in Kent.

*For more photos and reports from the Farningham Trophy competition please see the district website - Ed.*

## **District Officer** **E-mail Directory:**

### **Website:**

[www.lewishamdistrict.org.uk](http://www.lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

### **Chairman:**

*James Hardy*

[chairman@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:chairman@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

### **Secretary:**

*Dominic Meredith*

[sec@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:sec@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

### **Membership Secretary:**

*Rachel Backhouse*

[memsec@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:memsec@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

### **Ringling Master:**

*Rupert Cheeseman*

[master@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:master@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

### **Deputy Ringling Master:**

*Ross Hartley*

[ringing@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:ringing@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

### **Training Officer:**

*David Brown*

[training@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:training@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

### **District Representatives:**

*Vacant*

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### **Sales Representative:**

*Jim Rooke*

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### **Newsletter Editor/Press Representative:**

*Dominic Meredith*

[newsletter@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

# Around the Towers

## Ash by Wrotham

Ash Fete day was hot and sunny and the crowds turned out (Deryck may well compete with Rudolf for the red nose award). All of the funds raised were for the Tower, bell repairs and maintenance funds. The working bell generated much sound and comment, (one of the best was, how did you get it out the tower?) and lots of happy engineers with spanners and a large 'Meccano' kit to play with. Our thanks to Mark Backhouse and Whitechapel for the loan of a much appreciated centre piece. Total raised was approximately £6000. We hope to have 'captured' two more learners, but there again time will tell.

Next week the bell stand and display move 1 mile for New Ash Green 'Village' day.

Our thanks as a band go to Deryck, Esther and Rachel for helping us to progress, especially as we have been plagued with illness and sprains this quarter.

## John and Gabrielle Stook

### Beckenham

Practices are still well attended with abilities ranging from Bob Doubles through to half-courses of simple Surprise Royal. We are still indebted to Chris, Dave B, David K, Angus and Margaret who enable us to ring the more complicated stuff on a regular basis.

There have been fifteen quarter peals so far this year including three of 'Horton's four' (Spliced Belfast, Bristol, Glasgow and London Surprise Major) and two of Surprise Royal. Helen rang her first quarter on the 20 January and has now rung a further three all on the treble. Rosemary also scored her first quarter that was rung at Bromley Parish on 16 May and her next attempt is scheduled for July. Lizzie continues to progress having rung five quarters so far this year including inside to Bob Doubles and the treble to Bob Triples.



Assembling the bell

The latest of the Horton's four quarters was scored after a lost peal attempt in June (ok, honesty here, the conductor miscalled it after 20 minutes!!), but this was the fourth attempt at the peal this year. It did mean an early arrival at the pub before heading to a BBQ hosted by the 'composer' (Roddy Horton). The previous three peal attempts at

least all lasted longer and were all progressively better in terms of the length of ringing with the third attempt imploding after 2 hours and 30 minutes with 18 leads to go – we will persevere.

## David Macey

### Bromley Common

On 31<sup>st</sup> May our band held a ringing outing to six towers in the depths of Kent on what turned out to be one of the best days weatherwise that month. We were joined by colleagues from Addington (Surrey), Rochester Cathedral, Westgate in Thanet and two non-ringers: a work colleague plus friend. The morning was spent ringing at St Mary, Frittenden; All Saints, Biddenden and Headcorn: all eight bell towers. We then headed for Smarden where an excellent pub lunch was provided at The Chequers Inn. A short walk past ancient thatched cottages brought us to St Michael, Smarden, the first of three six

bell towers. Ringing at St Nicholas, Pluckley followed and then our final tower, St James', Egerton with its anticlockwise ring loomed in our sights.

With our wide range of experience we were able to ring a range of methods to a good standard. After a little while to adjust, the

anticlockwise ring did not present too many problems. During our time at Egerton we had the chance to venture higher and view the bells being rung in the bellchamber itself. This presented a great opportunity for those of our band who had never

experienced working bells at close hand as they could for once see in practice what they had been told or read. I should point out here that Bromley Common bells are not so accessible with viewing only possible after ascending a vertical ladder and passing up through a small space. Akin to potholing and not for the faint hearted.

Thanks are due to all who participated with special thanks to Rob Duke as outing photographer and Tom Winter who helped me by supervising the ringing at every other tower. All in all a most enjoyable day spent ringing with friends in one of the most beautiful an unspoilt part of the county.

**Christopher Lawrence**

**Eltham**

Unfortunately one of our learners, Helen, has moved away to take up a fantastic career opportunity, just as she was getting to grips with call changes. However the good news is that we have another 2

learners to fill the gap. Bryony is now finally old enough to follow in her fathers hand-strokes (to mix a metaphor), while Sarah was drawn to ringing by the sound of the bells. Obviously they were being rung well that day!

One of the learners has even dared try out

Sunday ringing, with no problems, aside from a seized clapper causing confusion to us all when we went from Queens to Weasels with no effort on our part. I'll leave it to you to work out which bell was affected.



The Bromley Common Band

The Rochester

Posse are now so established as regular visitors that it's the weeks they don't attend which cause comment.

Socially, the Isle of Wight outing, and trip to the Lakes, was enjoyed by those who went. And the September outing to Cambridge is being organised for us to look forward to ringing at some new towers, followed by afternoon tea.

**Katherine Trill**

**Erith, Christchurch.**

Back-to-back Quarter peals were rung on Saturday March 29<sup>th</sup>. Tom Scarth rang Grandsire Doubles for the first time inside and Les Brett rang the 2<sup>nd</sup> for his first quarter of Plain Bob Doubles.

Practices have continued as usual and we are grateful for our regular visitors from other Towers who boost our numbers! Some of us have been learning new methods including St. Nicholas Doubles.

Practice night on June 16<sup>th</sup> became

interesting when, during a course of Reverse Canterbury Doubles, there was a loud thump from above – the clapper of the 6<sup>th</sup> had broken! After the broken bits had been retrieved, the practice continued with ringing on the front 5 with the 8<sup>th</sup> as a rather odd-sounding tenor behind. We hope repairs will be completed soon.

As last year, the number of weddings here is down – a sign of the times?

Finally, congratulations to Tom and Shirley Scarth who celebrated their Silver Wedding in June and to Rachel and Mark Backhouse who celebrate theirs in July.

### Elizabeth Brett

### Horton Kirby

The number of young ringers is slowly growing, at the moment we have 8 regulars aged between 10 and 16 plus others who have just started to learn or come to ring from other towers.

We usually start at half past seven and continue until half past eight(ish). For the first half hour the bells are tied and we practise ringing up and down, standing at backstroke and playing “cat and mouse” while the new ringers practise back and hand strokes with Lesley our Tower Captain.

At eight o’clock normal practise starts and the other ringers arrive. We then get a chance to practise rounds on open bells with some steady ringers to keep it right. Most of the juniors are starting to learn how to do call changes. After they have finished they have a drink and show their parents what they have learned when they come to collect them.

The two oldest young ringers stay until the end of the practise to learn methods with the rest of the band. Everyone is progressing really well with two of us

ringing for Sunday service already and the others are close behind. We plan to enter an under 18’s band in the call change competition so watch out!

### Hannah and Katie (The biggest little ringers)

### Ambridge

There has been much excitement at St Stephen’s about the forthcoming Borsetshire Guild striking competition in August. Extra practices of Grandsire Triples have already been organised in order to perfect our striking - we stand a good chance of winning if everyone pulls their weight

### Neil Carter

# 120 Club

### Rachel Backhouse

April 12th drawn at Dartford (quarterly meeting)

1st	113	120 club
2nd	107	Brenda Barton (Dartford)
3rd	70	120 club
4th	62	Chris Webb (Bromley)

May 10th drawn at Eynsford (district practice)

1st	33	Len Morley (Eltham)
2nd	4	Judith Fry (West Wickham)
3rd	85	120 club
4th	8	Gabrielle Stook (Ash)

June 7th drawn at Hayes (district practice)

1st	84	120 club
2nd	96	120 club
3rd	37	David Hilling (Eynsford)
4th	102	120 club

85 shares sold so far this year so plenty left for anyone else who would like to join.

# Significant Quarter Peals

**Bromley, Ss Peter and Paul**

16th May 2008 in 44 minutes (9 cwt)

## 1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Rosemary A Stretton
- 2 David P Macey (C)
- 3 Margaret E Macey
- 4 Dominic D Meredith
- 5 Rhiannon M Meredith
- 6 Jeremy R Byers

1st Quarter at 1st attempt: 1.

To commemorate the 65th anniversary of the Dambusters raid.



The band. Left to right: Treble to Tenor

**Bromley, Ss Peter and Paul**

27th June 2008 in 46 minutes (16-2-8)

## 1260 St. Simon's Doubles

- 1 Margaret E Macey
- 2 Rhiannon M Meredith
- 3 David S Brown
- 4 Rupert J Cheeseman
- 5 David P Macey (C)
- 6 Christine M Webb

Rung for Simon Morris, not a saint yet, but to be ordained Deacon at St. Paul's Cathedral on 28th June 2008

# County Eight Bell Competition Report

**Rupert Cheeseman**

On a lovely sunny day the Lewisham District achieved their best county 8 bell result for a number of years with 2nd place at the event held at Westerham on 28th



St. Mary, Westerham

June. Losing out to only the home team in the end. 210 changes of Single Oxford Bob Triples was the prescribed method which all the bands completed but not one band

managed so without at least one method mistake. In fact the winning band had one of the most obvious but the rest of the piece was very good.

Despite numerous phone calls over the previous 3 months it had been impossible to find judges so



The Lewisham District Band

the County Chairman and Secretary, David Manger and Margaret Funnell stepped in. They made their comments and gave out the results as follows:

- 1st Tonbridge 14
- 2nd Lewisham 26
- 3rd Ashford 27
- 4th Canterbury 30
- 5th Maidstone 60
- 6th Rochester Did not enter

So congratulation go to Tonbridge and thanks go to the ringers of Westerham and Sundridge for providing tea and cakes throughout the afternoon.

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## **Go South Festival – Ringers required!**

I have received the below email from Carolina Goodship of the Surrey Association regarding a Festival that is being organised by Go South Go. We have had a request from them to ring bells at all the towers in Bromley borough on 17th September as part of large festival across the South London boroughs. I feel that this is something that we should try and support, as it ought to be a good opportunity for publicity and possibly recruitment. Please can you keep the date free in your diary and let me know if your tower is willing in principle to support this event.

Also, would anyone like to take on the co-ordination on this event?

### **Rupert Cheeseaman**

At the last Olympic ringing meeting we discussed Go South Go's festival on the 17th September with Shireen Dawanker of the South London Partnership [www.southlondonpartnership.co.uk](http://www.southlondonpartnership.co.uk). I will act as the main contact for the Surrey Association during the organisation of this event and Steve Jakeman will email me a contact local to the Richmond district from the Middlesex Association. Could you discuss this event with the Lewisham District and, assuming they are willing to take part, email the name of a contact who I can liaise with directly?

Go South Go [www.gosouthgo.co.uk](http://www.gosouthgo.co.uk) is the cultural wing of the South London Partnership whose main remit is to organise events throughout the year in the run up to the 2012 London Olympic Games. On the 17th September, a festival extending right across the 8 south London Boroughs is being planned on the theme of "See Something, Hear Something, Taste Something". Under Hear Something, they are looking to have church bells ringing from all the towers in boroughs of Bromley, Croydon, Merton, Wandsworth, Sutton, Richmond, Kingston and Lambeth between 3pm and 6pm.

The festival promises to be quite a high profile event and an excellent opportunity for the promotion of church bell ringing in South London and recruitment of new ringers. Although the timing of the festival is not great, being a working day, Shireen has asked if we can arrange for as many towers as possible to ring between 3pm and 6 pm. Ringing of any length from about 1/2 hours or longer has been asked. Clearly some towers might take the opportunity to ring a quarter peal or peal.

Hope this helps to start arrangements. Any questions, just give me a call (01883 624613) or send an email [CarolinaGoodship@mac.com](mailto:CarolinaGoodship@mac.com). I have also sent an email to Roger Bailey enquiring whether the Charmborough Ring might be available on that day.

Finally, Shireen also confirmed that Go South Go is not aware of other London boroughs organising similar events marking the hand over of the paralympic torch. At present, there is no specific event being organised for the hand over of the Olympic torch on the 24th August. This date coincides with the Notting Hill Carnival and therefore, for logistical reasons, the Go South Go organisers chose to hold their main festival event for the paralympic torch handover.



# Dartford Festival Reminder

## 19th & 20th July

The Charmborough Ring ( the UK's heaviest mobile ring ) will be at Dartford's Central Park on the Saturday and the lighter Trafford Ring on the Sunday.

**BUT WE NEED YOU !**

We Need:

- a) A few more strongish persons to help assemble the ring on the Saturday (9.30-11.30am)
- b) Others to disassemble the ring at the end (6.00-7.15 pm )
- c) Persons/groups to man the ring on both days (sat 11.30---18.00 sun 11---16.00)

We intend to have regular demonstrations (possibly a few quarters) interspersed with hands –on sessions for ringers and potential ringing recruits.

This is a publicity and recruitment initiative that is aimed at helping the profile of ringing in Kent and Lewisham district in particular. So, PLEASE help make it a SUCCESS.

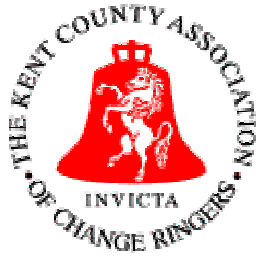
The more people helping the better. We'll even do our best to drown out Jason Donovan and Chas n Dave who are the headline acts on the Saturday and Sunday respectively

Indication of help would be appreciated in advance but shouldn't stop anyone turning up on the day.

There is the opportunity to ring a quarter on the Holy Trinity tower bells at 5.15 pm on the Sunday prior to Choral Evensong. There may be the possibility of one or two other quarters on Saturday/Sunday if requested.

Any queries/pledges: Brenda Barton 01322 225984 or [barton107@ic24.net](mailto:barton107@ic24.net)

Further festival info at: [www.dartford.gov.uk/festival](http://www.dartford.gov.uk/festival)



# THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

## LEWISHAM DISTRICT

Minutes of the Quarterly District Meeting held at Dartford on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2008

### 1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from John and Gabrielle Stook (Ash), Nick Wilkins (Chelsfield), Margaret Macey (Foots Cray) and Ross Hartley and Rhiannon Meredith (Beckenham)

### 2. Election of new members

The following new members were elected:

New Member	Tower	Proposed By	Seconded By
Phoebe Pinkerton	Chelsfield	Jim Rooke	Nancy Gay
Gary Pinkerton	Chelsfield	Jim Rooke	Nancy Gay
Eloise Scarth	Erith (Christchurch)	Liz Brett	Les Brett
Alan Lucia	Erith (Christchurch)	Rachel Backhouse	Mark Backhouse

### 3. 120 Club Results

	Number	Name	Tower
1 <sup>st</sup>	133	120 Club	-
2 <sup>nd</sup>	107	Brenda Barton	Dartford
3 <sup>rd</sup>	70	120 Club	-
4 <sup>th</sup>	62	Chris Webb	Bromley

### 4. KCACR Committee Meeting Report

- Brenda Barton drew the meeting's attention to the forthcoming Ringing Roadshow, to be held on 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> September at Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire
- Tonbridge District are considering hiring a coach to go to the Roadshow. See KCACR website for details.
- The cost for district meeting was discussed:

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- The major costs were for heating and organ players
  - Districts were urged to remind churches of the services they rendered if costs were too high
  - The Committee thanked Rupert for his work organising the AGM
  - The County 10 bell challenge will take place on the 29<sup>th</sup> November and will be hosted by the Lewisham District
  - The Keltex Trust is in the process of installing a ring of bells at Stone-by-Dartford. The Committee debated whether the new ring should fall within the Lewisham District or the Rochester District.

## **5. AOB**

- Cathy Cheeseman drew attention to the vacancy for a County Training Officer, which had been discussed at the County AGM. Anyone who is potentially interested in this role should contact Catherine Lewis for more information.
- The meeting then discussed the possibility of a training centre, similar to the Cinque Ports Ringing Centre, situated at this end of the County. The possibility of a joint centre with another district was raised – the idea of a Lewisham/Tonbridge District ringing centre, perhaps at Otford, was suggested.
- David Brown reported that the April Training Day was fully booked and the next was on 26<sup>th</sup> July. All application to David by the start of July.
- Rachel Backhouse reminded the meeting that county subs were due.
- Brenda Barton requested help for the Dartford Festival on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> July. She also confirmed that the Charnborough Ring was to be there.
- Nancy Gay appealed for any help at Biggin Hill practices. She also asked that any visitors thinking of attending a Biggin Hill practice should check with her beforehand to make sure the practice hadn't been cancelled.
- James Hardy announced that Beckenham would be missing several practices in May due to church events and requested that any visitors should check before attending.
- Rupert Cheeseman:
  - KCACR AGM. Rupert thanked everyone who had helped with the AGM, especially Graham Long.
  - The website had been updated.
  - The District Striking Competition had been very poorly attended, with only three teams present
  - The next district practice is on 10<sup>th</sup> May at Eynsford, from 7.00-8.30. It is a joint practice with the Maidstone District
- James Hardy thanked Rupert for his hard work towards the AGM

## **6. Vote of Thanks**

- The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to the Dartford band for organising the tea and to Jeanette Crouch for conducting the service.
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# Agenda for the Next District Meeting

The Kent County Association of Change Ringers  
Lewisham District

**Quarterly District Meeting at Erith (St John), Saturday 12th  
July 2008**

## **AGENDA**

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the Quarterly District Meeting at Dartford on 12th April
3. Election of New Members
4. 120 Club Draw
5. KCACR Committee Report
6. Any Other Business
7. Vote of Thanks

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# ***Next District Practice***

**Saturday 16th August**  
**Shoreham, Ss Peter and Paul**  
**7-9 pm**

**All welcome**

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